ICVA BULLETIN
Highlights from November 2019

Message from Executive Director

For a Common Agenda

30 years ago, in November 1989, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world’s children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC).

This Convention is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. It has galvanised action and rights have become a reality for millions of children. But hundreds of millions of children live in areas where populations face heightened risk of death, disease, and breakdown of livelihoods. Countries are entangled in fighting, internally and internationally, more now than any other time in the last 30 years. Today, more than 90% of natural hazards are regarded as climate related.

The actions and inactions of governments have a greater impact on children than on any other group in society. Child rights are a legal commitment through the UN CRC, not a moral assertion. Rights of children are directly threatened by climate change. Children today and future generations are being denied their rights to survival, development, protection, and participation in society.

This week, at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 25, children, youth, ICVA members and other actors are highlighting solutions to understand how placing child rights at the centre of climate action is essential in the fight against the climate crisis. By interconnecting climate change and key child rights issues at country level, the UN CRC offers a vital framework and mechanism for protecting child rights in a changing climate.

More joined-up action on the implementation of the UN CRC and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is needed to maximise opportunities to protect children through climate policy.

Joining the dots urgently for our common agenda.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA
ICVA Updates

ICVA Annual Conference

18 March 2020, Geneva
Member Engagement Days 17 & 19 March 2020

Protecting principled humanitarian action:
an honest conversation on risk

1. Registration Open: ICVA Annual Conference, 18 March 2020
“Protecting principled humanitarian action: an honest conversation on risk.”
The draft agenda for the Annual Conference is out! Yves Daccord, Director General of the
ICRC, Najat Rochdi, Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Office of the Special Envoy for Syria and
Team Leader and Director Peer 2 Peer Programme of the IASC and Philippe Besson, Head
of the Multilateral Division, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs will be in the opening panel discussing the Principles at Risk.

The Annual Conference held on 18 March will look at the risk to principled humanitarian
action and in turn the risks taken by NGOs to deliver effective and efficient
humanitarian assistance to those most in need. The conference will be preceded by
a Members’ Day on 17 March and followed by a Partners’ Day on 19 March which will
provide an opportunity for NGOs to further engage and interact around the theme. Due to
limited seating, we encourage you to register as early as possible. For more information
please see the ICVA website.
2. The ICVA Board met in November. Before the meeting they joined IOM management to discuss developments in the humanitarian environment. In the meeting itself they began discussions on the core issues for the forthcoming strategy that will feed into the wider consultation. The Board also welcomed the approval of 12 new members and approved the plans for the coming year.

---

**Forced migration**

3. The Global Compact on Refugees

**Third preparatory meeting for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF):** On 14 November, UNHCR organised the third and final GRF preparatory meeting. The meeting focused on the formulation of pledges and the programme and modalities for the GRF. On this occasion, UNHCR released an updated version of the programme, including preliminary schedules of the selected Spotlight Sessions; Marketplace of good practices and Exhibits; and Speakers’ Corner. Notes are now available here to ICVA members and UNHCR’s own short ‘Summary of discussions’ are available here. For this meeting, ICVA coordinated the drafting and delivery of a collective NGO statement. The Annex to this statement listed several examples of pledges from the NGO community.

Ahead of the GRF, this document is now being updated with additional pledges and information including a pledge from ICVA to support NGOs’ engagement with the GCR implementation over the next two years on Durable Solution, Protection Capacity and Responsibility-Sharing Arrangements. This document aims to help stakeholder in developing joint and matching pledges, and to work collectively towards a successful Global Refugee Forum.

For more information contact: jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org

Further efforts are being pursued to mobilise pledges and good practices to be showcased at the GRF. Including the creation of a multi-stakeholder Global Framework for Refugee Education. It aims to guide the pledging process for the first GRF and subsequent initiatives to meet the 2030 education commitments of the Global Compact on Refugees.

4. Meeting with UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection:

On 21 November, ICVA organised a meeting between Ms. Gillian Triggs and ICVA members. This event gave the opportunity to thirty-five NGOs based in Geneva and worldwide to exchange with the new Assistant High-Commissioner on her vision for the ‘state of protection’, current trends, challenges and opportunities faced by UNHCR and NGOs. The discussion also touched on the Global Compact on Refugees, protection of Internally Displaced Persons and how UNHCR’s regionalisation process may influence protection work. Notes from this meeting will soon be available online for ICVA members.

5. International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuelan refugee and migrant crisis:

Following their participation in the International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant Crisis on 28-29 October in Brussels, the NGO networks ICVA, InterAction, and INGO Forum in Colombia coordinated the drafting of a Joint NGO Consortia Summary Report on the conference. This document is available to ICVA members in English and in Spanish. It follows upon the networks’ cooperation on the drafting of a joint NGO Statement delivered at the conference.

For more information contact: jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org

6. Nominations for the 2020 Nansen Refugee Award are open:

Each year UNHCR recognises an unsung hero to be its annual Nansen Refugee Award laureate- in recognition of their outstanding work helping forcibly displaced or stateless people. Do you know someone doing amazing things for refugees, displaced or stateless people? Then nominate them for UNHCR’s Nansen Refugee Award.
7. Migration and vulnerabilities

IOM Annual Council Session:
The annual IOM Council Session took place on 26-29 November in Geneva. Panel discussions included the launch of IOM’s World Migration Report 2020, a discussion on Building Peace and Creating Conditions for Development: Internal Displacement Stabilization and Reintegration of Migrants, and Mobility Dynamics in the Sahel. The Lebanese application for membership to IOM was also accepted during this Council’s Session. In his address to Member States, IOM Director General António Vitorino, called for their support stating: “It is a privilege to lead this Organisation…at a time when our work is ever more important and central to our collective endeavor to ensure that migration is safe, well-managed and for the benefit of all.”

World Migration Report 2020
IOM launched its World Migration Report 2020. Drafted in collaboration with scholars and applied researchers, the report aims at presenting the latest migration global data and information in an accessible way as well as exploring and explaining complex and emerging migration issues. The World Migration Report 2020 was also discussed at the IOM-Civil Society Information Sharing session on 3 December at IOM Headquarters in Geneva.

Financing

8. IASC Humanitarian Financing Results Group (RG5):
The IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (HFRG) has now completed a draft workplan to carry forward deliverables through 2020. Priority areas for 2020 include:

- Map and promote financing instruments supporting humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits;
- Improve the case for increased use of multi-year and flexible funding in humanitarian operations;
- Facilitate the ongoing process of simplification and harmonisation of UN systems to reduce burdens and free additional resources for humanitarian operations.

The final draft workplan will be available to share once it is approved by the IASC OPAG. For those NGOs that are members of the Results Group, it will be important to look through the final priority deliverables for 2020 and identify where leadership or support can be provided to implement. At the November meeting of the IASC OPAG, the HFRG Co-chairs (ICVA and OCHA) also appealed to UN agencies to improve support for HFRG deliverables. NGOs who are ICVA members have the opportunity to hear more and provide feedback on ICVA’s work with the HFRG during the monthly Humanitarian Finance Working Group call. For more information contact: alon.plato@icvanetwork.org

9. UN Harmonisation:
The ICVA Donor Conditions Task Force (DCTF) continues to work on harmonisation and simplification of UN partnership agreements with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA. While this work has progressed slower than desired this year, there was positive progress during the November consultations with UNICEF and WFP. In December, the DCTF will discuss next steps to respond to the written feedback provided by UN agencies in response to the Oxfam-led analysis of partnership agreements conducted earlier in the year. For more information, contact: jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org

10. Setting Humanitarian Finance Priorities for 2020:
In the area of humanitarian finance, it is important to hear from ICVA members regarding preferred areas for ICVA to prioritise in 2020. The ICVA Humanitarian Finance Working Group monthly meetings in December and January will include an agenda item to work on priorities for 2020. To join the Working Group, or to provide direct feedback on humanitarian finance priorities, contact: jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org and cc alon.plato@icvanetwork.org
Coordination

11. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC):
The IASC Principals Meeting took place in Geneva on 5th December. The Good Humanitarian Donorship Co-Chairs hosted a breakfast meeting that day with the IASC Principals on the UNDS Reform and its implications on humanitarian action. The IASC Principals meeting covered a "Horizon Scanning" session on some major humanitarian crisis. Other points on the agenda were: PSEA and SH, MHPSS in Humanitarian Crises, Impact of Counter-terrorism Measures in Humanitarian Action. The Principals also had a session on the Grand Bargain with the Eminent Person of the Grand Bargain, H.E. Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Netherlands. ICVA ED, Ignacio Packer, representing ICVA at the Principals meeting with be debriefing the ICVA members on 12 December. For more information contact: Emmanuelle.Osmond@icvanetwork.org

IASC OPAG: The Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) held its second meeting on 7 and 8 November 2019. The primary objective of the meeting was to examine progress made by the IASC Results Groups (RGs) in 2019 and agree on their priorities for 2020. Many important deliverables were listed including the analysis on the impact of counter-terrorism legislation in humanitarian action; the finalisation of the Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the revision of IASC Principal 4 on PSEA/SHA; the Financing the Nexus study, etc. Other important products are in the pipeline for the upcoming six months and were discussed by the OPAG together with a few challenges faced by the RGs and the sector collectively. The three national NGO representatives that attended the OPAG through ICVA added value to the discussions by sharing experiences and challenges faced at country level. The meeting notes are available here.

IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG): On 22 November, the EDG organised a call on Horizons Scanning. On 26 November, Julien Schopp (InterAction), Christian Gad (DRC) and Steven Fricaud (Tdh) debriefed on the EDG mission to Burkina Faso (1-4 October 2019). Representing the fastest growing displacement crisis in the world and highly impacted by conflict, the EDG members called for an immediate scale up of system-wide humanitarian response as well as the preservation of ongoing development work.

Country and regional updates from humanitarian leadership: on 6 November, ICVA hosted a discussion with Najat Rochdi, Senior Humanitarian Adviser to the UN Special Envoy for Syria, who presented her role within the Humanitarian Task Force for Syria and exchanged with NGOs on the humanitarian situation in Syria.

12. Update on IASC Results groups:

RG1 Operational response: (No updates this month)

RG2 Accountability and Inclusion: (No updates this month)

RG 3 collective advocacy:
One of the priority areas of RG 3 is to “determine how best to address the impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action and the growing trend related to the criminalisation of humanitarian action in specific contexts.” Recently one of the deliverables was to conduct a desk review of reports and researches which have been done so far on this topic, with a focus on the recommendations on how to address the impact of counter-terrorism on humanitarian action and how to mitigate negative impact jeopardising principled action.

RG 4 Nexus:
Briefing to HERE on Nexus and work of the IASC RG4
In November we briefed the Think Tank HERE-Geneva, about ICVA’s work and reflections of its members on the Nexus in the framework of HERE’s study on the subject.

November RG 4 call and circulation of the Draft IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes: RG 4 met to prepare for the OECD INCAF/ IASC RG4 meeting planned in Paris and ensured that the draft of the IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes was
circulated among actors, including NGOs for comments and inputs. The Draft document was circulated with the ICVA Nexus Working Group during the last two weeks of November.

**RG5 Finance:** See update above in the "Financing" Section.

**13. UNICEF – NGO Consultation**
The UNICEF – NGO Consultation for Partnership in Humanitarian Settings ‘Enhancing the Culture of Partnership’ took place in Geneva on 11-12 November 2019. Attended by over 70 participants from both NGOs and UNICEF. The Consultation discussed action-oriented solutions to strengthen the humanitarian partnership at the benefit of children. Click here for the background documents and the PowerPoint Presentations. The report with the agreed recommendations and steps is in progress and will be shared through the next bulletin.

**14. World Food Programme WFP**
ICVA attended this years’ Annual Partnership Consultation (APC), which took place on 11 and 12 November at WFP headquarters in Rome, Italy. The APC provided space for NGOs to discuss fresh insights and challenging perspectives on some of the key issues facing humanitarian and food security sectors. Conference minutes will be shared.

WFP is looking for comments to their second draft of their emerging School feeding Strategy 2020-2030: Click here for the document and comment form.

**15. IAHE-SG:** ICVA Secretariat is pleased to announce that Mr. Volker Hüls, Danish Refugee Council, will continue to represent ICVA at the Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) Steering Group.

---

**Navigating change: cross cutting issues**

**16. Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus**
OECD INCAF IASC - 8 November in Paris:
The OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility hosted a meeting with the IASC RG 4 on the Humanitarian and Development Nexus in Paris. The focus was on what success of the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus would look like, and to enhance the relationship among OECD countries and the practitioners. Aiming at the harmonisation of the policies around the joint analysis and joint planning of actors working across Humanitarian and Development. ‘Myths’ on the subject have been analysed and contributions made toward the identification of suitable processes toward the Collective Outcomes. For more information and minutes from the meeting, contact: marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

**Call for the Community of Practice on the Nexus:**
The bimonthly call for the Community of Practice on the Nexus was rescheduled for 5 December. The CoPN is continuously expanding, with the addition of more NGOs. For more information contact: marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org
17. Localization
ICVA’s latest briefing paper, “Unpacking Localization” is now available in French and Arabic! Click here to find the translated versions.

Read now!

18. Civil society space in humanitarian action
ICVA Working Group on civil society space in humanitarian action:
ICVA will be opening a working group for members only to share information, lessons learned, best practice and tools related to NGO/civil society space in humanitarian action. For members interested in joining the group, contact: nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

United Against Inhumanity (UAI) – Call to Action:
UAI has a Call to Action to end the use of inhuman tactics in war and conflict. The mission is to encourage civil society to challenge warring parties, their sponsors, governments and international organisations, by initiating and facilitating local, regional and international joint action.

Against the Wave: Civil society responses to anti-rights groups
This report is a compilation of research carried out by CIVICUS. It has been informed by CIVICUS members and stakeholders on how civil society is being impacted and the response to anti-rights groups.

People Power Under Attack: a report based on the CIVICUS Monitor, December 2019
Following an update of CIVICUS ratings in November 2019, the latest CIVICUS Monitor report continues to tell a worrying story: 24 countries with closed civic space, 38 countries with repressed space and 49 with obstructed space. Just 43 countries receive an open rating, and 42 countries are rated narrowed. 40% of the world’s population lives in countries with repressed civic space – this has doubled since last year.

The UN Democracy Fund’s annual call for project proposals is open until 22 December 2019:
The UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) supports two-year projects that empower civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. In this round, UNDEF particularly welcomes projects on media and freedom of information. Project proposals may be submitted online. Guidelines, FAQs and lessons learned can be found here.

Region Specific

19. Asia and the Pacific
The 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional NGO Partnerships week: 26-29 November in Bangkok.
The 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional NGO Partnerships Week took place in Windsor Hotel Bangkok. It was a week-long programme which provides a unique forum for networks and partnerships to meet and address key issues related to humanitarian policy, implementation and beyond. It is a partnership together with Asia Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and Community World Service Asia (CWSA) with support from UNOCHA, UNHCR, IFRC and many others.
This year the crosscutting theme was “accountability, coherence and protection”. During the week, participants from the UN, NGOs, private sector, academia and beyond gathered together to share experiences, discuss and solve common challenges in a range of humanitarian topics such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, localization, protection and accountability to affected communities, shrinking civil society space, and beyond. A number of networks and partnerships also hold their annual meetings and consultation/dialogue sessions to share their expertise and collaborate on best practices to address shared problems.

20. Africa Region
BBR Ethiopia and Uganda
In collaboration with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and its members, International Medical Corps and Concern Worldwide, ICVA has been supporting in the identification of suitable candidates among national NGOs or national Staff of international NGOs in their mid-level career, and cofacilitating the delivery of two rounds of trainings on Humanitarian Architecture. These trainings have been useful for participants to organise information and experience learned as well as to receive updates on the ever-evolving humanitarian sector. The Uganda chapter has been an opportunity for ICVA to meet with organisations interested in the work of ICVA and considering applying for membership. For more information contact: Marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org (Uganda and membership) addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org (Ethiopia)

Regional IASC meeting for Southern Africa
ICVA participated in the Regional IASC meeting for Southern Africa together with representatives of UN agencies and ICVA members. The meeting was an opportunity to exchange information, coordinate and prepare actors for the incoming period in the region. Specifically, aspects of food insecurity and acute malnutrition, exacerbated by drought and early effects of the climate change, coupled with political instability in multiple countries in the region, have been underlined and discussed. Some of the above indicators are worrisome in several sectors. ICVA is working with members to ensure the appropriate positioning of this slow onset crisis as done in the IASC EWEARE Analysis.

Ebola Regional Preparedness Donors’ briefing
On 20 November ICVA participated in the Ebola Regional Preparedness Donors’ briefing co-chaired by OCHA and WHO. ICVA’s contribution aimed at recalling the experience gained, and the recommendation done, by NGOs and highlighting the importance of community engagement in preparing and responding to disease outbreak. While progress is reported by many agencies, it is important to ensure full coordination and complementarity among several actors, including NGOs.

African Union Humanitarian Symposium, Nairobi 18-20 November
ICVA participated in the 7th African Union Humanitarian Symposium organised by the African Governance Architecture on the theme: Gender Dimension of Forced Displacement in Africa, Toward Durable Solutions. This Symposium marks one of the last events of the 2019 AU thematic year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: Toward Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa. One important takeaway is the recognition that conflict, violence and instability remain the main driver of humanitarian needs and displacement in Africa. This is a call to all parties, starting from governments to address the root causes while identifying and implementing durable solutions for the already displaced. More information and documentation will be available in due course. Addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org

21. MENA Region:
On 5 December ICVA MENA participated in a high-level roundtable discussion on Localization hosted by the HPF Localization Task Team. ICVA along with Localization TT members, EU Civil Society focal point, Mohammad Al Anakris UNDP, DFID civil society mapping focal point, WANA Institute, JIHAS, and JONAF were all in attendance and were invited by the HPF Co-Chairs. The meeting captured lessons learned and best practices with a focus on Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. For more information contact: Eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org
22. Webinar Recording - Risky Business: Reframing the fundamentals of risk management for humanitarians
On 21 November, ICVA and PHAP organised the first webinar in a series aimed at exploring the current state of risk management in the humanitarian sector. Participants in the webinar learned about the need to balance management of the risks inherent to the work with the desire to reach people in need in the most difficult contexts. They also learned about the importance of developing an organisational culture that understands risk management as a discipline that cuts across all levels of an organisation. If you missed the webinar, you can watch the recording or listen to the Podcast.

23. NEW Learning opportunities and resources page
There are many learning opportunities – both online and face-to-face – available for NGO staff in the humanitarian sector. With requests from our NGO members to make it easier to find relevant material, the Learning opportunities and resources page on the ICVA website is a curated list of online and face-to-face (when available) learning and training programmes that would be useful for NGO colleagues from all sectors. This is a small sample of opportunities out there, please share with us any interesting opportunities that would be useful to NGO members to be included on the webpage. For more information contact: nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

24. Self-Care Tips:
Humanitarian and development professionals are prone to burnout, often neglecting their own needs because they are focused on providing service and aid to others. In this video from a psychologist at the Headington Institute, you will learn three coping styles and self-care tips to help you avoid exhaustion and prevent burnout.
New and noteworthy

25. CIVICUS new position paper: ‘We will not be silenced: Climate activism from the frontlines to the UN.’ Launching in the lead up to the annual UN climate change negotiations (COP 25) taking place in Madrid from 2-13 December, this position paper illustrates the power of the growing global climate justice movement, the challenges climate activists are facing and calls on governments to ensure their voices are heard.


27. ACAPS End-of-the-year report: ACAPS highlighted 3 highly complex and evolving regional crises and 3 severe crises that did not get enough attention in 2019. They also cover +5 new risks for 2020. Read the report here.

28. NRC, in partnership with Development Initiatives and the Government of Canada, are pleased to share, “Field perspectives on multi-year humanitarian funding and planning: How theory has translated into practice in Jordan and Lebanon”. This research contributes important evidence on the reality of predictable and flexible funding in the field and identifies recommendations for the global Grand Bargain workstream on enhanced quality of funding.

29. Equality through technology
Aidex conference
ICVA ED, Ignacio Packer, delivered the key note address on "Inequality & Exclusion in Humanitarian Action" at the opening of the 2019 Aidex conference, Brussels 13 and 14 November 2019. Aidex is a major event created to help the international aid and development community engage the private sector and drive innovation.

At Aidex, the TeQuality group - convened by Alliance4Impact - ran a panel discussion on “Technology and Equality” followed by a workshop. ICVA contributed on both as TeQuality member and lead of the “Principles on innovation management” pillar of TeQuality.

TeQuality group
ICVA is a member of TeQuality. A group of individuals from the private sector, the UN, the Red Cross, academics, governments and ICVA coming together to focus on addressing “How to enable equality through technology” with “stakeholder inclusion” as the priority issue to address.

30. HQAI Subsidy Fund
ICVA has joined the HQAI’s Subsidy Fund Management Committee with a three-year mandate. This Fund is entitled to grant financial contributions of up to 90% to support organisations that want to access third party quality assurance services. The Fund is hosted by HQAI and works independently from the other bodies of the organisation. The Fund Management Committee provides an impartial service to the sector, reflecting the perspectives of donors, humanitarian NGOs and HQAI. In November, the Subsidy Fund Management Committee finalised the funding cycle by attributing subsidies to three national organisations based in Ethiopia, Lebanon and Uganda. For application requirements click here.

Mark your agenda

December 4: Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO), Geneva
December 5: IASC Principals meeting, Geneva
December 5: UNHCR Pledging Conference, Geneva
December 5-7: IFRC General Assembly, Geneva
December 9-12: 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent - "Act today, shape tomorrow," Geneva
December 17-18: 1st Global Refugee Forum, Geneva
2020

January 16-18: WB-UNHCR JDC - Conference, Data on forced displacement, Copenhagen
January 20-24: GFMD Quito Summit, Quito, Ecuador

February 3: IASC Deputies Forum, Geneva
February 3-7: Humanitarian Networks and partnerships week, Geneva

March 17-19: Registration open - 2020 ICVA Annual Conference, Geneva

April 22-23: InterAction Forum, Washington

June (dates tbc): UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva